

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for paying for international business reply mail that is processed by a second carrier located in a second country and a first carrier located in a first country, comprising the steps of:

charging a sender's meter located in the first country for postage that is due to the second carrier for processing business reply mail that is deposited by a recipient with the second carrier; ~~and~~

charging a sender's meter located in the first country for postage that is due to the first carrier for business reply mail that is received from the second carrier and delivered to a party located in the first country;

paying the first carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage and

paying the second carrier the amount charged to the senders meter for the second carrier postage.

2. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the party is the sender.
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage-, and

printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage changed to the senders meter for the second carrier's postage.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

delivering an item containing the international business reply mail from a sender located in the first country to a recipient located in the second country.

8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

charging the sender's meter for delivering the item.

9. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

printing on the item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage; and

printing on the business item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for ~~the~~ a second carrier's postage.

10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

paying the first carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for delivering the item; and

paying the second carrier the amount charged to the sender's meter for delivering the item.

11. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

indicating on the item the amount of business reply mail that may be returned to the sender.

12. (Original) The method claimed in claim 11, further including the step of:

determining an expected business reply response factor for the international business reply mailing.

13. (Original) The method claimed in claim 12, further including the step of:

determining a cost of mailing the expected business reply responses.

14. (Original) The method claimed in claim 13, further including the step of:

charging the sender's meter for the cost of mailing the expected business reply responses.

15. (Original) The method claimed in claim 14, further including the step of:

counting the number of international business reply mail processed by the first and second carriers.

16. (Original) The method claimed in claim 15, further including the step of:

determining the total amount of postage due the first and second carrier for processing the counted international business reply mail.

17. (Currently Amendment) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of:

indicating on the international business reply mail ~~the~~a expiration date that the sender's meter will be charged for processing specific batches of international business reply mail.

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Reply to Office Action dated December 11, 2006

18. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the sender's meter is a postage meter.

19. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:

printing a first country indicia on the business reply mail to indicate the amount of postage due to the first carrier; and

printing second country indicia on the business reply mail to indicate the amount of postage due to the second carrier.